FEBRUARY 5, 1780. THE NUMBER 52.

VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

WILLIAMSBURG: PRINTED BY DIXON & NICOLSON.

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WILLIAM AYLETT, *Eſq;* King William.

SIR,

THE occaſion of the p ſts from the ſeverity of the ſeaſon, will excuſe me for having ſo long neglected your addreſs to Agricola. Whoever ſhall undertake to po nt out the abuſes of men in power or office, and the correction of publick errours or vices, will always find himſelf expoſed to the obloquy of the intereſted; and his well meant endeavours repreſented in the odious light of *ungrateful calumnies*. This conſideration too frequently deters the timid, or luke-warm patriot, from offering his ſentiments to the publick; but he whoſe *zeal is ſincere*, contemns equally the abuſes, and thoſe who attempt to ſtigmatize his honeſt deſigns.

Agricola's publication had for its principal object, a matter of much greater moment than the conduct of ſtaff officers: It only ſuſ d a reformation in our trade; for want of proper regulations in which, we are precipitated to the brink of deſtruction. Yet the obſervations on Commiſſaries &c. though but a collateral conſideration, ſeemed to him of no little conſequence to the community. As you have thought proper to attack him upon this ground, he owes to the publick a vindication of his opinions.

That all communities, in time of war, are ſubject to, and that many have ſuſtained conſiderable damage from mal-practices committed by their officers of the ſtaff, is what will not be denied me. Hiſtory, ancient and modern, fixes this truth beyond a doubt In the moſt virtuous times of the Roman republick, inſtances occur of ſuch malverſation. But why do I mention ſuch proofs? The evil has its origin in human nature itſelf, and is coeval with the fall of man. Few, unhappily too few, are capable of withſtanding the temptations of wealth and aggrandizement, when they can be acquired by a ductility of conſcience without any conſiderable riſk of temporal puniſhments:—Hence the practices of ſpeculation and monopoly, ſo deſtructive to the intereſts of ſociety. Hence the defaults of unaccounted millions. In ſome meaſure to illuſtrate what is advanced, let us conſider the immenſe ſums lodged in the hands of Commiſſaries, and other publick agents; the difficulties that intervene in the ſettlements of their intricate and voluminous accounts; and the delay with which ſuch ſettlements are generally attended; and we find the defaulter ſecured by a Gordian knot, which few or none can unravel. The ſubalterns in office, are gone upon their travels. The neceſſary papers for elucidating the accounts have fallen into the hands of the enemy, or they have been loſt in the brook, in a precipitate retreat; and perhaps thouſands of the publick treaſure have ſhared the like fate. The famous Mr. Fox is charged with appropriating to himſelf, the enormous ſum of forty millions in the laſt war, and his ſecurity againſt detection and being brought to account, was certainly more immediately derived from the perplexity of his accounts, than the venality of Parliament. Have we no Foxes in America? After this digreſſion, into which I have been led from the nature of the ſubject, I haſten to your ſtrictures. I am told that "general accuſation is in fact no accuſation at all; but tends to deſtroy the neceſſary confidence which the publick ſhould have in their ſervants, and to ſap the foundation of that government they" their authors "ſeem anxious to ſupport." And you are pleaſed to ſay "before they accuſe men in office they ſhould be well aſſured, pointed, and explicit in their charge, diſcriminating between the good and the bad. Let us now examine what Agricola has publiſhed to call for ſuch irrefragable proofs. He has ſaid that "the low credit of our money is in ſome meaſure owing to the conduct of Commiſſaries and others, who are *wiſely* allowed to purchaſe on commiſſions;" and that "the plan which he propoſes would ſave the country thouſands which are ſunk in their hands." Are you aware Sir of the principle you have laid down, and how far it ſuits the genius of a free government? Do you mean that nothing but on proof poſitive ſhall be objected to men in office? This indeed would be to tempt thoſe officers to a breach of their duty, and of the truſt committed to them, even in the moſt palpable inſtance; where they could profit by it, and at the ſame time had a chance of evading ſuch proof poſitive, it would be to ſanctify their characters, under every appearance and circumſtantial proof of their guilt; provided only the ſubject did not admit of, or there happened to be wanting the proof poſitive you call for: It would be truly to ſap the foundation of government; as it would deſtroy the liberty of the citizen, even in the exerciſe of his judgment and reaſon; and ſubject him to the moſt grievous impoſitions, while his lips were padlocked. You have been a practitioner of the law; let me pray your indulgence while I aſk you a queſtion relative to the nature of proofs. Are not ſtrong circumſtantial proofs frequently admitted in the courts? Are they not even in caſes of life and death? If ſo, ſhall they be denied when the publick intereſt is at ſtake? My acquaintance with the Gentlemen of the ſtaff is not very extenſive. Formerly I had the pleaſure of ſome degree of intimacy with Col. Aylett, and it is with real ſatisfaction I declare, that I always conſidered him as a man of honour and integrity, and a friend to his country. Sorry am I to obſerve that he takes upon himſelf the juſtification of all who have been ſubordinate to him in office. This is a piece of Quixotiſm that I did not expect from his candour and good ſenſe; and I am perſuaded in his cooler hours he will regret that ſuch a declaration has eſcaped him. Has Col. Aylett appointed every ſubaltern in his office, or had he the power of inſpiring them all with the purity of his principles? *Credat qui vult, non Ego.* Certainly there are many honeſt and worthy men in the buſineſs, and I well conſider that ſuch are entitled to the eſteem and gratitude of their country; but I cannot conceive, as I am told and believe that this is your character, why you ſhould ſo readily take umbrage at what affects the unworthy only. I ſincerely wiſh that the eagerneſs with which you have engaged in defence of the commiſſariate, may not tend to create ſuſpicions injurious to yourſelf. The cap was intended only for thoſe whom it might fit: I ſhould be ſorry to ſee it on your head.—But to return more immediately to the ſubject: If we even admit that the publick has hitherto been faithfully ſerved in this department, yet ought not a wiſe government to guard, as far as poſſible, againſt every temptation and incitement to fraud, in their agents or ſervants? And is the granting commiſſions on purchaſes like to have ſuch effect? But ſay you, "have the Commiſſaries to your knowledge given higher prices than were current? Is a dollar in their hands of more worth than in the hands of an individual?" Theſe queſtions on which you lay ſo much ſtreſs, I muſt beg leave to obſerve, appear to me very ſuperficial; and may readily be anſwered by other interrogatories. Cannot a Commiſſary have private agents to foreſtal the markets, and ſell to him at increaſed prices, to increaſe his commiſſions? Will not a judicious hint, without a palpable fraud, be ſufficient for this purpoſe? Have you never heard of ſuch practices being ſuſpected? I aſſure you they have upon great grounds of probability, but not *proof poſitive*. But "Agricola refutes himſelf—The Commiſſary cannot avail himſelf of the increaſe of his commiſſions, from the conſequent depreciation." Here unluckily the blunder is your own. Let us ſuppoſe that a Commiſſary is to make a purchaſe of 100,000 lb. of pork, and that the price is artificially raiſed from 25 to 50 l. a hundred: We find by ſuch purchaſe he makes his commiſſions amount to 1000, inſtead of 500 l. And is his invention ſo barren, that he can make no advantage of ſuch increaſed ſum? Is he a landmonger? It procures a warrant for 1500 acres of land, inſtead of 1250. Has he a turn for trade? A few ſtrokes of this kind furniſh him with a capital. In ſhort he will find the money depreciated in nothing more, and in few things ſo much as neceſſaries of life; and it is therefore evident he gains by the depreciation, and is in ſome *latitude*, the cauſe of extending the evil. Let us ſuppoſe alſo that the Commiſſary with thouſands of the publick money in his hands meets with temptations to realize this money for his own private emolument. Will they always be reſiſted? And if he is unfortunately led aſtray from his duty, does it not become his intereſt to depreciate the money as ſpeedily as poſſible, that by ſuch means he may the more readily make up his accounts? I have been well informed by a Gentleman of rank in the army, who is diſtinguiſhed by his integrity, as well as veracity, that ſuch practices have not only been ſuſpected by him, and thoſe *choice few who have attended to the publick welfare*; but that the ſtrongeſt circumſtancial proofs are not wanting Few men have Col. Aylett's patriotiſm of ſinking their commiſſions in the publick ſervice.—That ſuch evil practices have been committed, I will not undertake poſitively to affirm; but I ſee occaſion too often to fear that publick money is applied to private purpoſes. Can we otherwiſe account for the ſudden riſe of ſome agents from penury to affluence; from precarious ſubſiſtence to luxury and voluptuouſneſs? Such examples there are in thoſe times; and will they not be admitted by the impartial publick, as circumſtancial proofs of the doctrine I have advanced? Moſt certainly there is a neceſſity for confiding our money to publick agents; but we cannot be too careful in the choice of them, and ſhould always have in mind that comprehenſive proverb, that ſhort reckonings make long friends. To open the eyes of the people to the peculations of their ſervants, or to guard them againſt ſuch contingencies, I ever held to be the duty of a good citizen; and to my countrymen I ſubmit, whether my publication had ſuch tendency, or the injurious one you aſcribe to it. Sure I am, I neither intended, nor can I conceive it has done injury to one honeſt man. *Good characters diſcriminate themſelves, and bad ones deſerve no favour.* Too unlimited a confidence in the officers or ſervants of a ſtate, from the ſupreme Magiſtrate, through all the diffeſent departments of office; not only has the general effect of diſhoneſty, but too often reduces it to ſlavery. A man of hiſtorical knowledge needs no recital of inſtances to prove this axiom in politicks. Let every one therefore who wiſhes to preſerve the liberty of his country, ſcrutinize the conduct of thoſe who are truſted either with its government or riches, with a piercing eye. Good ſervants will exult in every inquiry, as it evinces their worth and integrity; and corrupt ones meet with that infamy and contempt they ſo juſtly deſerve.

As you have given your name to your remarks on Agricola, he is not desirous to conceal his: The printers is therefore instructed to furnish it to you, or any other Gentleman who may think it worth the inquiry. I am, Sir,

Your, and the publick's
Most obedient servant,
AGRICOLA.

Jan. 24, 1780.

NAPLES, *August* 17.

On Wednesday last Mount Vesuvius alarmed us again; but a quantity of lava being discharged, it is hoped this tremendous eruption is nearly at an end. The whole country for three miles round Ottaiano, has been buried under the ashes of Vesuvius, and had that shower continued for one hour longer, every inhabitant of that town must have perished under the ruins of the houses, as in the city of Pompeii, in the reign of Titus. As yet we have only heard of two lives being lost, though the destruction and desolation of the country about Ottaiano is beyond description, and the damage estimated at least 300,000 ducats.

Paris, August 20. France every day discovers more and more the immense resources it has within itself, under the government of a Sovereign who consults every moment lost, in which something is not done for the happiness of his people and the honour of his crown. The reign of Lewis XVI. will be the most brilliant epocha of our annals. Posterity will fix their admiration on this happy reign. They will distinguish it, by that grand support of all governments, a Prince governing the manners of his people, by his own good example; by justice and humanity guiding the sceptre, wisdom, and truth in all his Councils. All the movements of his Ministers are animated by the same spirit to the common good, and the genius of the great Henry animates this his august descendant.

If the people of France, had not already proved beyond all doubt that their affection for the King is their ruling passion, there could now no longer be any room for it. The obstinate a good Prince finds in the hearts of his subjects, the richest tribute. From the highest to the lowest, the whole nation is alive to promote the glory of their Sovereign. The Princes of the blood, the Prince of Conde, the Duke of Bourbon, the Duke of Chartres, Richelieu, and almost all the great men of the court, have solicited for permission to serve in the present war; and if there is no opportunity of serving under his command, they have offered to march with their own troops. The hundred Gentlemen of the King's household have solicited the same favour from their Colonel. The King with his usual goodness has given them the most flattering evidences of his gratitude.

The following letter, written by 30 Gentlemen to their Sovereign, characterises the French nobility, who are more attached to glory than pleasures:

"Brave Captains, belonging to your Majesty's household, cannot observe but with the utmost concern, that while other officers of your Majesty have an opportunity given them, to signalize their zeal for your service, and for the benefit of their country, they can distinguish themselves only in a generous, but fruitless sympathy for the hapless lot of others. Shall we continue less interested than the lowest of your soldiers? Deign, Sire, to accept of what little services we have the honour to offer you, with our blood and lives. From the love we bear our country, which animates our breasts, we shall fly to its service. Under the command of such general officers as you may please to appoint, we will form a company of volunteers, we will forego every enjoyment, every luxury shall be proscribed among us, and we will lay aside every superfluous article of dress. We will be sedulous to merit by the exactness and regularity of conduct, and the intrepidity of our efforts, the honour which we now pray your Majesty of being permitted to serve you."

His Majesty has granted the wishes of these Gentlemen, and a considerable number of young Noblemen are to embark in a few days, under the command of the Prince of Nassau.

His Most Christian Majesty's letter to the Duke de Penthievre, Great Admiral of France,

My Cousin,

The desire that I have always had in lessening, as much as in my power, the calamities of war has induced me to cast my eyes upon that class of my subjects whose employment is fishing, and who have no other subsistence than the resources which this commerce affords: I have thought that the example I shall give my enemies, and which arises from no other motives but the sentiments of humanity, will determine them to grant to the fishery the same liberties which I have consented to countenance. In consequence of which I have wrote this letter to inform you, that I have given orders to all commanders of my ships, and to owners and Captains of privateers, not to trouble, until a new order, the English fishery, and not to stop their vessels, notwithstanding they are loaded with fresh fish, and even though this fish may not have been caught on board of the fe vessels, provided they are not armed with any offensive arms, and they convinced that they have not given signals, which announce a suspected intelligence with the ships of war of our enemies. You shall make known my intention to the officers of the Admiralty, and to all those who are under your command. And the present being to no other end, I pray God, my cousin, &c

(Signed) LOUIS.

August 31. According to the report of the officers of the Juno frigate, M. de Tronjolly has taken and conducted to the isle of France, four ships belonging to the English East India company, immensely rich.

LONDON, *September* 29.

THE favourite court doctrine in the reign of James the first, and all the succeeding Stuarts was, that all the liberties, franchises, and privileges which the people enjoyed, proceeded from original grants of the crown.

This blasphemous doctrine rendered James the first odious and contemptable, occasioned the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first, brought that Monarch to the block, and banished James the second and his posterity.

At the revolution, the boundaries between the King and the people were settled. During the last four years of Queen Anne the ridiculous doctrines of passive obedience and non resistance were revived, and to the eternal disgrace of our country Gentlemen, they did all that lay in their power to strengthen the arbitrary measures of the court, by giving countenance to such ridiculous tenets.

In the beginning of the present reign, the favourite plan of Government was to extend prerogative, and to depress privilege. The enormous and absurd proposition that the people were made for the King, and not the King for the people, was revived under the influence of a baleful Stuart, aided by all the skill and encouragement of a Mansfield; but the great point to bring this blessed system of absolute dominion to perfection has been happily foiled.

The behaviour of the gallant Admiral Barrington, and the ships of his division in the action off Grenada, on the 6th of July, sufficiently assures us of the courage and fortitude of our British tars, who dare stare death in the face, without dismay, when the honour and glory of their country calls for their exertion. The courage and intrepidity of Capt. Fanshaw, of the Monmouth, during the action, does him immortal honour, and brings to our mind the never to be forgotten names of Russel, Blake, Benbo, &c. names celebrated in history as worthies of this country, and amongst whom Captain Fanshaw is truly worthy to be ranked.

Mr. Stephens, Secretary to the Admiralty, in a letter to the Lady of Admiral Byron now at Bath, dated Sept. 9, says, he has the pleasure to acquaint her, that the reports she may have heard to the prejudice of Admiral Byron are malicious, scandalous, and void of all foundation; that he has the satisfaction to learn from Mr. Byron's despatches, that he did every thing that could be done to bring the whole squadron into action, but that the French as industriously avoided it, and consequently the brunt of the battle fell upon the van, which was Admiral Barrington's division.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the East India *Company's service, to his father in* Edinburgh, *dated* Bombay, *March* 14, 1779.

"I wrote you the first of this month, and shall now give you a short account of our campaign.

"On the 22d of Nov. 1778, a detachment consisting of 600 sepoy grenadiers, and four small field pieces, embarked to take possession of a pass over the Gots (the Gots is a ridge of mountains that extends from cape Comorin to the high lands of St. John's.) On the 23d, the whole army embarked, and landed next day on the continent opposite to Bombay, which is about twelve leagues over. We took a small fort, embarked, and went nine miles up a river, when we had accounts of the detachment taking possession of the pass without being opposed. We were now 30 miles from the foot of the pass, and from the foot to the top was six more, up hill all the way. We were obliged to stay below to collect provisions and bullocks for the use of the army.

"On the 2nd of December, we began to get our guns, ammunition, stores, &c. up the pass, and got that business accomplished by next day, when the enemy began to cannonade our camp.

"On the 28th, we advanced a few miles, where the country was so narrow that our army reached from hill to hill. We now waited for the commissary with his provisions, and on the 29 Lieutenant Colonel Cay received a mortal wound with a rocket, when he was sent to Bombay, we having a free communication with that place.

"By the 2d of January 1779, the commissary had joined us with the provisions. On the 4th we advanced about six miles, and when we came to our ground, we lost Captain Stewart by a nine pound shot.

"We had now lost the two best officers in our army. The one was second in command and commanded the first division of the army; and the other commanded the third division.

"On the 26th, we marched at three in the morning. At sunrise, the enemy began to dispute every inch of the road we went, but we forced them to retire to the other side of a small river, killed a number of their men, and a mortar took five of their guns. The enemy destroyed all the country before us, and what they could not carry away they burnt. We made three more marches, and came to a village called Puttargaring; it had been a very fine village, but the most of it had been laid in ashes the night before.

"We were now within fifteen miles of Punah, and had accounts of their putting hay in the houses to destroy it also, so that we could get no provisions but what we had with us. We were in this camp three days, and, on the 19th of January, orders were given to march at 11 o'clock at night. We were all in high spirits, thinking it was to rout up the enemy's quarters, as their camp was only three miles from us. In the room of going to their camp, it was to retreat. In our way back during the night, we lost the road. Carts broke down, and the enemy plundered all our baggage and camp equipage.

"At day light, we were only two miles from the village, when the enemy brought three guns to flank our line, with three or four in front, with a number of marksmen, picking off both officers and men, and they kept a continual fire on our line until three in the afternoon. They forced us to retire into a small village, and to leave one eight inch howitzer and the killed on the field; for we lost a number of officers and men.

"The enemy cannonaded our camp from the 23d of December until the 14th of January. Our army was only 5000 fighting men, and the enemy upwards of 60,000 fighting men; including the market, they had about 120,000 men, women, and children.

"There is an army of 9000 men marched from Bengal, and is arrived at Surrat. They were three months in marching round; they had several engagements but were successful. Captain Scott is well, so are Doctor Carmichael and Captain Nicholson."

The last contract for fresh beef to be delivered at Portsmouth, was for the amazing quantity of 30,000 oxen, 150 of which are required every day to dine the fleet at Spithead which contains 30,000 effective men.

On Thursday the East India company gave notice to their servants that they must learn the manual exercise; so that it may be said that 600 recruits were raised in an hour. They are to exercise two afternoons in the week, and to have a gratuity allowed them.

A few days since several West India merchants waited upon Lord George Germaine. They laid before his Lordship the present state of the West India trade, and the insecurity of the Jamaica fleet, which consisted of above 200 sail which had no other convoy than one ship of the line and two frigates. His Lordship heard them with great complaisance, and assured them he was extremely sorry that he had no stronger power to assist them; that the superiority of the flag being lost in the Atlantick could not be easily regained; that the increasing naval power of France and Spain, owing to the forsaking the blockade of D'Estaing Martinique, was a very alarming circumstance, could not, in the present state of things, be remedied.

The drawing room was yesterday uncommonly crowded, to congratulate his Majesty on the anniversary of his coronation. All the courtiers and their friends make a point of attending St. James's on publick days of late, because they would not be thought to desert a great man in distress.

To the PRINTER *of the* MORNING CHRONICLE.

THROUGH the channel of your extensive and impartial paper, permit me to offer a just tribute to the memory of an invaluable man, whose death will long be pathetically lamented, and whose innumerable virtues endeared him, even in the midst of hostile commotions, to the love and veneration of contending parties.

Daniel Chamier, Esq; late Auditor General to the British navy in America, resided many years in the province of Maryland, and in the discharge of many important offices, was particularly distinguished as a faithful servant to the publick, and a valuable member of society.

On his quitting that government, to act in an honourable department in the service of the crown, even the levellers in the present controversy spoke of him in terms of the highest veneration. They were assured, that the uncommon benevolence of his disposition would extend to every person, independent of political tenets, who might be reduced by the vicissitudes of war to implore his generous assistance.

When hostilities unhappily commenced between the parent state and her misguided colonies, this great and this worthy man! then exerted himself in a more exalted sphere! the lover of all, who abandoned his family and property, compelled by the rigid hand of persecution, and who preferred his integrity to every inducement of avarice, or ambition, found in him a sympathising benefactor, by whom he was hospitably received, his necessities amply supplied, and every relief extended that his fortune, or influence, could possibly afford.

The prisoner experienced no less the effects of his unlimited compassion. Amongst those who were captured by the accidents of war, many were the husbands, the sons, and friends of them with whom he had been formerly connected. By his interest he procured them particular indulgences; he advanced considerable sums for their immediate occasions, and exerted every effort to alleviate the idea of captivity, and render them comfortable in their peculiar situations. In a word, the utmost hospitality marked the whole of his conduct, and the innate goodness of his heart beamed forth in every action.

Such was the man for whom the prayers of hundreds were frequently offered; but alas! the will of Heaven suddenly removed him from this terrestial state, to receive an eternal recompence for his faithful discharge of every relative and social duty.

To enter fully into the character of this very excellent person would exceed my abilities, and lead me into a tedious prolixity. Suffice it to say, that in him his Sovereign has lost a most loyal animated subject, his country an invaluable citizen, his wife a tender, indulgent husband, and the writer of this letter (with numbers who have felt the miseries of this unnatural contention) has lost the most faithful, affectionate friend! the most generous, humane benefactor!

E. W.

PHILADELPHIA, *Jan* 4.

Copy of a letter from Major General Prevost, *to the Honourable Vice Admiral* Byron, *dated* Savannah, *in* Georgia, *September* 9, 1779.

SIR,

AS it may be of consequence to his Majesty's service, that you should have every possible intelligence of the motions of the French fleet, I think it my duty, by this express, to acquaint you, that the Count D'Estaing is now at anchor, with 25 sail of the line, or two deckers, in a line across this bay, or entrance of the harbour; he has also seven or eight frigates. What his further views or designs may be, I cannot take upon me to say, though it be intended any thing against us, he must do it speedily, as this is not a coast to remain long on, in his situation, at this season of the year.

Several of his ships appear disabled. It is not known but his serious views are to the northward of Rhode island, or New York, but I am sure,

"He is also accompanied by some transports, or merchant vessels, but as his appearance here was probably as unexpected to the rebels of Carolina, as it was to us, I do not think they are as yet in readiness to make a formidable co-operation with the Count. I cannot learn that there was any extraordinary force among them; no doubt, all the force they can now muster, will be in motion against us, but my hopes are, that he cannot stay long enough on the coast to give any effectual countenance or support to them. We are however using every endeavour to put this place in the best posture of defence, that time and other circumstances will admit of. We are not afraid of any one of them, but both together may be too many for us, if they should be able to effect a junction, and the French land force is any thing considerable. We are ourselves at present (unfortunately as matters appear) somewhat disjointed, having a considerable detachment at Beaufort, in Carolina. I hope they will get through this day, the passage is still unoccupied by the French.

"On our return from Charlestown, it was reckoned a most eligible measure to keep a hold of Carolina, Beaufort in particular, and indeed nothing but a superiority at sea against us, would make the measure of so to be an advantageous one in every view, both as it related to the defence of this province, and offensive operations against Carolina. I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

(Signed) PREVOST.

Hon. Vice Admiral BYRON.

We hear that on Thursday afternoon last, as the Sip Revolution, Captain M'Nachtain, was lying at anchor in the Delaware, a large cake of ice came across her cable, which cut the same; and the ship drove ashore on Duncan's bar opposite Bombay Hook. The ship and cargo will be saved with the loss of her foremast cut, and mainmast carried away.

WILLIAMSBURG, *Feb.* 5.

A GENTLEMAN from South Carolina informs us, that the fleet which sailed from New York the 20th of December last, had passed that state, when off the bar, they sent a flag of truce to Charlestown, in order to get a few prisoners exchanged. It was generally believed they were destined for Saint Augustine.

It is reported, that several people have walked upon the ice from Newportnews to Hamptonroad, Crany island, Norfolk, Portsmouth, &c. and many are of opinion they could go from the mouth of Hampton creek to Willoughby's point, which is seven miles over.

Several persons have gone from Annapolis, to Poplar island, Rock Hall, and Baltimore town, on the ice, and are crossing to and from Kent island every day, which has not been known before by our oldest inhabitants, nor has the like ever happened, we believe, since the memory of man.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in Philadelphia.

"The troops which sailed from New York, are six British regiments, the grenadiers and light infantry of the army. Rawdon's corps; the legion, the Queen's rangers, and the Hessian grenadiers. These will make about five thousand effective men, and sailed in the last division.

"Lord Stirling was detached some days ago towards Staten island, and this morning an account prevails that his Lordship has done the enemy great mischief in that quarter, but I do not answer for its authenticity."

The elegant house at Broadneck in Hanover belonging to Robert Page, Esq; last Sunday caught fire and was entirely consumed.

Died, on Wednesday last, after a short illness, Major THURSTON JAMES, of James City county, in the 65th year of his age. As a friend he was sincere, as a neighbour, kind; as a father, tender and affectionate; as a master quite indulgent; to the needy, always ready to lend a bestowing hand; and in all his dealings true and just, submitted to his fate with that degree of resignation and fortitude, which bespoke him a good christian.

*** *The publick may now be assured, that several genteel families in town are willing to breakfast and dine such students as are desirous of receiving those great advantages which the university is capable of affording them. Their price will be no more than was customary in the year* 1774 *or* 1775, *payable, either in provisions, or according to their amount.—The lectures have not yet commenced, but will most probably soon.*

WILLIAMSBURG, *February* 2, 1780.

THE members of the WILLIAMSBURG MANUFACTORY are desired to take notice, that on *Thursday* the 10th instant, there will be a quarterly meeting at the *Raleigh*. Their attendance is requested at 11 o'clock in the morning.

JOHN BLAIR, Chairman.

To be SOLD, *on Wednesday the* 15*th of* March *next, in* Petersburg,

A QUANTITY of damaged beef, pork, and bacon. All persons who damaged meat in curing for the United States last year, and do not come in and settle before the above mentioned day, will be required to answer for the delinquency at the next General Court. (3) ELLIOTT & DAVIS.

PETERSBURG, *February* 2, 1780.

To be SOLD *upon the premises, on Monday the* 14*th instant* (February) *for ready money,*

FOUR hundred acres of land, lying in the upper end of *Caroline*, whereon is a good dwelling-house and kitchen, being late the property of *Capt. Vaughan* and company, and now vested in the commonwealth.

EDMUND PENDLETON, Jun. Escheator.

To be SOLD *at publick auction for ready money, on Monday the* 14*th inst.* (February) *on the premises,*

ALL the materials and effects belonging to the *Warwick* glass, consisting of flax, hemp, tow, *East India* and *Virginia* cotton, thread, spun cotton, cotton cloth, and stockings, canton nankeens, spinning wheels, reels to ditto, and looms, &c. a hemp mill, belting mill, and stocking looms; also sundry household and kitchen furniture, plantation utensils, cattle, hogs, salted pork, corn, and a wood boat, with divers other articles too tedious to mention. (3)

FOR SALE *at* NEWCASTLE,

THE high bred covering horse ACHILLES. He is a dark chestnut sorrel, well marked, and full 16 hands high, rising seven years old. Undeniable for getting fine colts. W. JOHNSTON.

WILLIAMSBURG, *February* 3, 1780.

I HAVE for SALE, at my store, opposite Mr. *Ambrose Dawsport*'s tavern, in this city, an elegant assortment of the most beautiful calico and linen patterns, black and white gauze, and a fresh assortment of the best soap. (1) M. [illegible]

N B. I still carry on the millinery business, and would willingly take goods on commission, or at moderate advance.

ALL persons having any demands against the estate of *John Jones*, late of *Caroline* county, deceased, are desired to make them known, properly attested; those indebted to the said estate, are requested to be speedy in payment, or suits will be immediately commenced against them.

(2) THOMAS JONES, Executor.

WILLIAMSBURG, *February* 4, 1780.

MY smoke-house was broken open last Sunday night, and 25 HAMS, 19 SHOULDERS, and some smaller pieces of bacon were taken away. I will give a reward of 100*l.* to any person discovering the thief, and of 200*l.* to any person who shall restore the meat. (2) E. RANDOLPH.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD,

TO any person who will deliver to me in *Williamsburg*, or to *Mr. William Blair* in *Chesterfield*, a small forrel mare, which either strayed or was stolen some time in *December* last, from *Williamsburg*. She is with foal, has a long tail and mane, a star in her forehead, somewhat resembling 5, no brand perceivable, trots and gallops, and was, a little before missing, in tolerable good order. Being bred near the Hon. *John Blair*'s estate in *Hanover*, she may perhaps have strayed that way. ARCH. BLAIR.

TAKEN up in *Fairfax* county, a dark bay or mouse coloured mare, 4 feet 8 inches high, 9 or 10 years old, with a star and small snip in her forehead, both her hind feet white to the footlocks, a small saddle spot on the near side, and branded on the near buttock Z. Appraised to 60*l.*

(1) EDWARD PAYNE.

To be SOLD to the highest bidder, on Saturday *the 26th* February, *for ready money, the estate of Captain* James Cole, *late deceased, of* Goochland *county*,

CONSISTING of 5 likely *Virginia* born slaves, also the tract of land containing 666 acres, with convenient dwelling-house, and a good peach orchard; it is extraordinary good tobacco, wheat, or corn land. The said land lies between the *Little Bird*, and the *Great Bird*, in a good neighbourhood convenient to mills. The plantation is sufficient to work 10 or 15 hands. An undoubted right will be made the purchaser by the legatees of the said estate.

(4) WILLIAM COLE.
JOHN COLE.

To be SOLD for ready cash, on the third Monday *in* April *next*,

THE house and lots which I now possess in the town of *Fredericksburg*, and formerly advertised by Col. *Willis*, two lots on the front street, whereon is the extending good dwelling-house, with every convenience that a family can wish for.—A failing gutter, a store-house on the main street, and flat sufficient to contain eight stores more, with warehouses. On the back street are two lots more, under a good fence, with a coach house, stables, and houses for servants; these lots are situated near the market, and so calculated to suit a merchant, or private family, and the most healthy situation in the town. I will treat for them privately.

ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD.

To be SOLD to the highest bidder, at the subscriber's [illegible] *on* [illegible] *next, or Monday the* [illegible] *of* February *next, if fair, otherwise next fair day, for ready money*,

[illegible] Bristles, *Muscovado* sugar, copperas, bottle corks, men's shoes, writing paper, watch glasses, hour glasses, sewing silk, needles, tail do. [illegible] and a small quantity of tar.—The subscriber is for private sale, at his plantation in *Hanover* county, the following medicines, viz. rhubarb, bark, [illegible] senna, cantharides, sago, valerian [illegible] castor, myrrh, colocynth, opium, manna, [illegible]

NICHOLAS B. SEABROOK.

Currituck (North Carolina) Jan. 27, 1780.

THE copartnership of *Savage & Westmore* being expired, it is requested that all persons who have accounts against that concern, will send their accounts immediately in, that the same may be adjusted and settled; and all persons indebted to them in the said concern are requested to make payment within three months from this date to prevent their being sued, which will be extremely disagreeable to us.

W. SAVAGE.
JOSEPH WESTMORE.

GOOCHLAND county, *Jan.* 21, 1780.

HAVING QUALIFIED on the estate of my brother *Thomas Adkisson*, deceased, and am ready to pay any just demands that may be brought in, if any such there are, I desire to be made acquainted with them within three months, as I want to settle my accounts for conveniency concerning the estate, and shall not be liable for any demand made after the expiration of that time.

(4) ISAIAH ADKISSON.

To be SOLD, or RENTED for three years,

THE HOUSES and TENEMENTS where I at present live, just below the capitol, in the city of *Williamsburg*. The lots are well enclosed, and the houses in good repair, and every convenience for the reception of a large family.

BEN. POWELL.

☞ All persons having demands against the estate of *Mrs. Esther Powell*, by judgment, bond, or open account, are desired to send in their claims properly authenticated to

B. P.

RICHMOND, *December* 20, 1779.

STRAYED or stolen from the subscriber, about the 8th instant, a bright bay horse, about 12 or 13 years old, 4 feet 9 or 10 inches high, low in flesh, and branded, as well as I can recollect, on the near shoulder S, and buttock W, around one of his hind heels a little white, rather hipshotten in the right hip. Whoever delivers the said horse to me, shall receive 30 dollars reward. (2) JACOB BOE.

To be SOLD by the Escheator, on Monday *the 28th of* February, *and continued till all are sold, to the highest bidder, for ready money, at the Park*, James *river*, Fluvanna *county*,

THE forfeited and escheated estate of *Walter King*, consisting of about 6000 acres of land, 800 of which are valuable low grounds, to be laid off in lots, not exceeding 400 acres; 80 negroes, part of whom are valuable tradesmen; the stocks of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs; the crop of tobacco, corn, and fodder, plantation utensils, and many other valuable articles, too tedious to mention. Likewise 1600 acres of land, lying on the *Rivanna* river and *Baker's* creek, in the said county.

MARTIN KEY, } Com'rs.
(4) JOHN WARE, }

To be SOLD to the highest bidder, on Tuesday *the 8th day of* February *next*, *for ready money, at the town of* Richmond,

SOME lots and tenements in the said town, late the property of *Nisian Minzies*. Also one tenement, with a lumber house, late the property of *Andrew Chalmer*. Also two unimproved lots, late the property of *Richard Osmald*. Also five lots, pleasantly situated on *Shocko* hill, lately the property of *James M'Donald*. Also a lot, with a good dwelling-house, late the property of *John Myers*.—At the same time (but on the premises, about six miles from *Richmond*) will be sold, a very valuable tract of land, containing about six hundred acres, to be laid off in convenient parcels, upon which are the necessary houses for cropping, together with all the crop, stocks, and utensils of husbandry, lately the property of *Robert Baine*. There will likewise be sold, between twenty and thirty likely *Virginia* born slaves, consisting of men, women, and children, among which are several very valuable house servants, sundry articles of household and kitchen furniture. The whole of these articles being duly escheated, are now become vested in the commonwealth.

Wm. DANDRIDGE, Jun. Esch

SOLD at GREENHOW's *store in* Williamsburg,

FINE *Irish* linen, a large assortment of silk handkerchiefs, white purple bordered ditto, check ditto, large *India* cotton ditto, penknives, cutteaus, knives and forks, metal buttons, sleeve buttons, buckles, stillsots, needles, best lancets, copperas, allum, mens and boys hats, logwood, fustick, gun powder, sugar, salts, [illegible] soap, rhubarb, Peru cuanha, [illegible] salts, [illegible] senna, ipecacuanha, cream of tartar, and other medicines; crooked combs, ivory and horn ditto, and various other useful articles. The above goods will be sold, wholesale or retail. (1)

To be SOLD, on the premises, on Thursday *the 24th of* February *next*,

THE glebe land of *Drysdale* parish, in *Caroline* county, containing about nine hundred acres of valuable land, with houses and a plantation in good order for making a crop. The terms of sale to be made known on the day, by

THE COMMISSIONERS.

ORANGE, *January* 1, 1780.

THE subscriber conducts a grammar school, to which youth are admitted as boarders and pupils, or as pupils only, on as reasonable terms as can be consistent with the state of our currency. Those who are not inclinable to engage in the study of the *Latin* and *Greek* languages, after having acquired a grammatical knowledge of the *English*, will be instructed in several branches of polite literature.

WALKER MAURY.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

STOLEN from the *Falls* plantation in *Chesterfield*, about the 30th of last *December*, a dark bay gelding, about 7 years old, 14 hands high, with a star in his forehead, neither docked nor branded, some saddle spots near his shoulders, and has some appearance on his breast of being hurt some time ago by traces, being used to run in a charriot, paces, trots, and canters exceeding well, the *Falls* his most natural gate. I will give the above reward on conviction of the thief and delivery of the horse, or two hundred dollars for the horse. (4) W. BLACK.

To be SOLD by the escheator, on Monday *the 21st of* February *next*, *and continued till all are sold, to the highest bidder, for ready money*, at Tandy Key's in [illegible]ham *county*,

THE forfeited and escheated estate of *Walter King*, consisting of about 4000 acres of rich high land, to be laid off in lots, not exceeding 400 acres; 50 valuable slaves, the stocks of horses, cattle, and hogs, the crop of tobacco, corn, and fodder, and plantation utensils.

MARTIN KEY, }
(4) JOHN NICHOLAS, } Com'rs.

WILLIAM & MARY *college, Jan.* 28, 1780.

THE publick are desired to take notice, that the person who engaged to board the students at the rates before published, has informed the society that he means to decline that business on account of the unexpected disproportion which has lately arisen between tobacco and the necessaries he should have been obliged to lay in.

WHEREAS sundry Gentlemen have requested Messrs. *John Todd*, *Levy Todd*, and *John Hawkins*, who are now residing in *Kentucky*, and have made themselves acquainted with the lands on the *Western Waters*, to survey and secure officers rights, and locate Land Office certificates; and as they find it out of their power to attend in the lower parts of *Virginia* this winter for that purpose, notice is therefore given to any Gentlemen who may incline to employ a person for that purpose, that they may engage with myself or Mr. *Edmund Hawkins*, who will attend at *Fredericksburg* on the 15th of *February* at *New Castle* the 17th, at *Williamsburg* the 20th, at *Petersburg* the 23d, and at *Richmond* on the 25th; or at any other time between those dates and the 15th of *March*, at the barracks in *Albemarle*, or at the house lately occupied by Mr. *John Hawkins* in *Hanover*. We will purchase officers or soldiers rights, or Land Office certificates of the first date.

(1) MARTIN HAWKINS.

N. B. We have for sale about 3000 acres of good tobacco LAND, lying in the counties of *Albemarle* and *Hanover*; also so likely NEGROES.

WILLIAMSBURG, *Jan.* 8, 1780.

TO be sold by the package or piece, *Irish* and coarse linens, linen, cotton, and silk handkerchiefs, chints do. calico, chintz, coarse cloths, lawn, muslin, cambrick, ribands, silks for winter gowns, mens and womens shoes, knives and forks, penknives, china cups and saucers, *West India* rum, brown and loaf sugar.—I continue to buy bills of exchange on *England*, *France*, *Holland*, or the *West Indies*.

(tf) SAMUEL BEALL.

N. B. I want to charter two prime sailing vessels to the *West Indies*.

WILLIAMSBURG, *Jan.* 19, 1780.

I PROPOSE to remove from this place to the neighbourhood of *Richmond* town, about the 20th of next month. Those persons who may have business with me after that day, are requested to apply to me there. It is my present intention to confine my practice to the Court of Appeals, High Court of Chancery, the General and Admiralty Courts; but I shall be always ready to attend the trial of any particular cause in the County Courts, should the parties concerned choose to employ me.

EDMUND RANDOLPH.

WANTED at *Hunter's* iron works, to whom suitable encouragement will be given, a masterly hand in a wire mill; also nailers, card makers, and other artists in iron manufactures; where may be had, bar iron, nail rods, round hoops, plates and sheet iron, anchors, and a variety of other articles in the iron branch, with pots, kettles, and other castings.

(tf) ABNER VERNON.

☞ The best price will be given for old brass or copper, by applying to *Robert Nicolson* in this city.

WINDSOR *(Caroline) Jan.* 12, 1780.

A REWARD of one hundred dollars is hereby offered to the person bringing or sending home HARRY, a mon slave who belongs to General *Woodford*, and having broken open his master's house in the county of *Caroline*, and stolen some silver spoons and part of his mistress's wearing apparel, ran away the 7th of *December* last. He is a mulatto, complexion, in stature about 5 feet 4 well set.